

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1 and 2.

Please add new claims 3 through 16.

3. (New) A microscope slide stainer comprising:  
a slide housing into which at least one microscope slide is inserted, said housing having a cavity into which liquids are dispensed;  
a liquid dispenser, said dispenser being capable of movement under microprocessor control so as to align the dispenser with a slide; and  
a liquid aspirator, said aspirator being capable of removing liquid from the cavity.

4. (New) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a slide carrier capable of moving the slide that is contained in the slide housing.

5. (New) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a heater capable of heating the slide that is contained in the slide housing.

6. (New) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 5 wherein the heating element is adjacent to the slide.

7. (New) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a pressurized rinse bottle from which rinse fluid is dispensed into the cavity of said slide housing.

8. (New) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a heater capable of heating the slide that is contained in the slide housing.

9. (New) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 8 wherein the heating element is adjacent to the slide.

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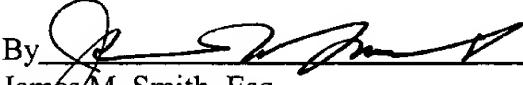
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10. (New) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3, wherein the liquid aspirator comprises:
  - a vacuum bottle;
  - a vacuum hose extending from the vacuum bottle; and
  - a vacuum hose transport mechanism for bringing the end of the vacuum hose to the cavity in the slide housing.
11. (New) A method of staining slides comprising:
  - inserting a slide into a slide housing, said housing having a cavity into which liquids can be dispensed;
  - moving the slide housing under microprocessor control into alignment with a liquid dispenser;
  - dispensing liquid into the cavity of said housing, said liquid also contacting said slide; and
  - aspirating liquid from the cavity of said housing.
12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the liquid is aspirated from the cavity of said housing by extending a vacuum hose to the cavity and collecting the liquid into a vacuum bottle.
13. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising heating the slide contained in the slide housing.
14. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising heating the slide contained in the slide housing.
15. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising moving a slide that is contained in a slide housing.

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16. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising adding rinse fluid from a pressurized  
rinse bottle

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Specification Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii)

Replace the title at page 1, line 1 with the below title marked up by way of bracketing and underlining to show the changes relative to the previous version of the title.

Automated Slide Stainer With [Removable Reagent Cartridge Frame] Slide Housing